(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given up the idea of introducing the Lottery (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 in the Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments have banned the sale of lottery tickets of other States;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments have handed over this work to private contractors; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the present circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Lottery (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 aimed at prohibiting, organization, conduct or promotion of lotteries was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 1999. Tire said Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Committee could not reach a consensus either in favour or against the Bill and recommended that the Government should take up this issue at the political level to explore the possibilities of evolving a larger consensus in the matter.

(c) As per available information, the Government of Kerala has banned its own lottery from 27.01.2005 and has prohibited all lotteries and declared Kerala a lottery free-zone.

(d) and (e) Under Section 4(c) of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998, a State Government organizing a lottery may sell the tickets either itself or through distributors or selling agents. As per available information some State Governments have appointed sole selling agents/marketing agents.

Setting up of orphanages and widow homes for Tsunami victims

2378. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up special orphanages and widow homes for Tsunami victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Women and Child Development, the nodal Ministries/Departments, are supporting the States/UTs for taking care of the orphans and widows of the Tsunami disaster. This includes setting up of additional orphanages and widow homes, wherever required.

Child Trafficking after Tsunami

2379. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to tackle the child trafficking issue that has emerged after Tsunami crisis;

(b) whether India too is contemplating on the lines of Sri Lanka to put a blanket ban on adoption of displaced children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs issued instructions to all the States/UTs to keep a strict vigil against trafficking of children of Tsunami disaster. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was made the nodal Ministry to look after the welfare of the children affected by the Tsunami disaster. There are no reports of any trafficking of children so far.

(b) and (c) 529 children are reported to have become orphans in the Tsunami. The State Governments/UT Administrations and the community have decided to take care of these children themselves and most likely no adoption outside will take place.

Left wing extremism in Bihar

2380. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that left wing extremism thrives in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?